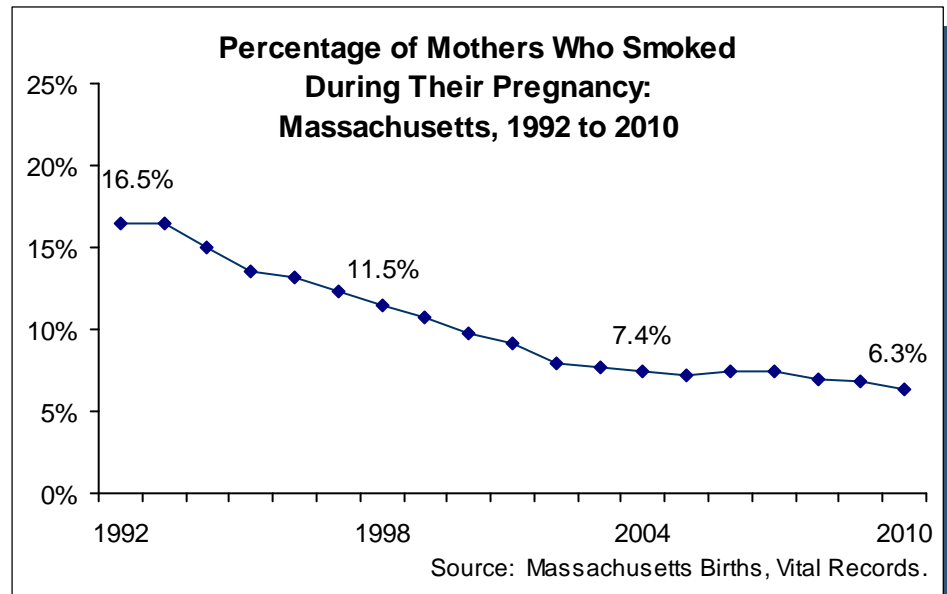


Smoking During Pregnancy

Massachusetts Fact Sheet

In 2010, 6.3 percent of birth mothers in Massachusetts reported smoking cigarettes during their pregnancies. The percentage of mothers who reported smoking during their pregnancy has decreased by more than sixty percent since 1992 when it was 16.5 percent.¹

Women with four or more years of college are less likely to report smoking during pregnancy (1%) compared to those with less than a high school degree (16%) and those with a high school degree (12%).¹



Mothers who had prenatal care paid for by MassHealth/Medicaid had 6 times the smoking rate of mothers with prenatal care paid through private insurance (14.4% vs. 2.4% respectively). Among the 30 largest cities and towns in the state, Pittsfield (23.9%), Fall River (17.1%), and New Bedford (14.9%) had higher reported smoking during pregnancy than the state overall, while Brookline (0.6%), Newton (1.0%), and Arlington (1.1%) had lower rates than the state.¹

Babies born to smokers are 1.5 to 3.5 times more likely to have low birth weights than babies born to nonsmoking mothers. Low-birthweight babies are at risk for serious health problems throughout their lives.²

Women who smoke during pregnancy are more likely than nonsmokers to have a miscarriage.² When mothers quit smoking during the first trimester, their infants have weight and body measurements similar to infants of nonsmokers.²

¹ Massachusetts Department of Public Health. *Massachusetts Births, 2010* (March 2013).

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Chronic Disease Prevention. *Preventing Chronic Diseases: Investing Wisely in Health – Preventing Smoking During Pregnancy* (April 2003). Accessed 10/25/2008 at <http://www.mqthealth.org/PDFStore/SmokeFree/PreventSmokingPreg.pdf>.

